

PROCEEDINGS  
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A NEW SUBSPECIES OF THE  
BLACK-CHINNED FRUIT PIGEON

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In their "Contribution to the Ornithology of Formosa, Part 2" (1951, Quart. J. Taiwan Mus., 4: 135), Hachisuka and Udagawa list the black-chinned fruit pigeon, *Ptilinopus leclancheri*, as a rare and mysterious member of the Formosan avifauna. They ascribe the population to the Philippine subspecies *longialis* Manuel, described in 1936 (Philippine J. Sci., 59 (2): 307) from two males and a female, subsequently destroyed in Manila in 1945. Their publication lists three specimens taken on Formosa at Kijinsho, Tainan Pref., in 1922, at Koshun in the south, and on Botel Tobago Island in 1934.

Through the kindness of Dr. Yamashina I have learned that two of these three specimens in the Takatsukasa collection were destroyed in 1945, leaving a single immature male, the specimen from Tainan, in the Kyoto University collection. This specimen (perhaps taken by the late Dr. Moichiro Maki) was collected 1 November 1922 at Kijinsho, Tainan, Formosa.

A fourth specimen must now be added to this record, an adult male collected in 1961 at K'en-ting, P'ing-tung Hsien, Formosa by Mr. Morioka. This specimen differs markedly in color from the species *leclancheri* of the Philippines and deserves recognition as follows:

***Ptilinopus leclancheri taiwanus*, new subspecies**

*Type*: From K'en-ting, P'ing-tung Hsien, Formosa; 250 meters. No. 40078, Yale Peabody Museum Collection, New Haven, Conn. Adult male collected 19 July 1961 by Hiroyuki Morioka.

*Diagnosis*: From *leclancheri* this form differs by larger size, at least in the tail and culmen measurements, and in color, being somewhat darker green above, heavily splotched with bluish on the crown, nape, and back (this splotching may be an individual aberration; it appears unlikely

to be a racial character, but I have not observed it in other specimens). On the underparts the breast spot is large and not so dark as in *leclancheri*, more maroon, as is the anterior portion of the chin spot. The lower surface is dark dull green, washed with dark gray, much darker than in Philippine birds.

*Measurements:* Manuel's three specimens of *longialis* did not differ in color from *leclancheri*, but were larger, as follows:

	<i>P. l. longialis</i>	<i>P. l. leclancheri</i>
Wing .....	♂ ♂ 160, 161, ♀ 164	♂ ♂ 146-154
Tail .....	♂ ♂ 119, 121, ♀ 118	♂ ♂ 102.5-104
Culmen .....	♂ ♂ 15, 16	♂ ♂ 17.5-20
Tarsus .....	♂ ♂ 20, 22	♂ ♂ 21-24
Middle toe and claw ...	♂ ♂ 31, 31.5, ♀ 35	♂ ♂ 26-29

The single specimen of *taiwanus* measures as follows: wing 158, tail 117, culmen 22.5, tarsus 28, middle toe with claw 36. Thus, in bill and tarsus measurements, it is far larger than *longialis*. The bill is much more massive altogether than in *leclancheri*, more deep and strongly built than the simple difference in measurements indicates.

Dr. Yamashina reports (pers. comm.) : "I observed all of the above 3 skins about 20 years ago and I still keep a memo written at that occasion reading:

"Comparing with the skins caught at Philippine Islands the Formosan skins are different in several parts, for instance, the latter's head is more greenish and the colour of back is deeper whereas the chestnut purple patch on the lower breast is smaller.' And the sizes of (1) and (2) are as follows:

	<i>Wing</i>	<i>Tail</i>	<i>Ex. C.</i>	<i>Tarsus</i>
(1)	158	103	19	25
(2)	158	104	19	24

"As mentioned above, it was admitted then that the colour of skins (of birds) living in Formosa and Philippine Islands was quite different. . . ."

Of course the wing and tail measurements are useless in immature birds, as is the size of the breast spot, but the culmen and tarsus sizes are valuable indicators of the large size of the single adult.

*Remarks:* The scantiness of records of this species of fruit pigeon from Formosa has been ascribed to the species being a vagrant from the Philippines. The persistence of scattered records from one area, and the differences in size and coloration incline me to the belief, however, that we are dealing here with a local resident population. Formosan birds are still comparatively little known as the experience of the Naval Medical Unit recently collecting specimens for epidemiological purposes has shown. These collections will be reported upon in the future by H. G. Deignan and will prove, I know, to be full of interest.